

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A musical tone signal generation apparatus accommodated for multiple users to play music in an ensemble is configured by a main unit and a prescribed number of performance operators, which are physically separated from each other. The main unit installs speakers that are arranged in connection with the performance operators respectively. Each performance operator installs at least a pad, which is manually operated by each user to issue tone-generation instructions. Performance data (e.g., MIDI data) and tone color data are provided with respect to at least a single musical tune constructed by plural parts respectively corresponding to plural tone colors, which are automatically assigned to the performance operators. In case of automatic performance, musical tone signals are automatically generated based on the performance data, so that the speakers produce corresponding musical tones. In case of manual performance, musical tone signals are generated in response to tone-generation instructions being issued from the performance operator manually operated by the user, so that the speaker produces corresponding musical tones with respect to an assigned tone color. For controls of the automatic performance and manual performance, the main unit installs a control panel that has indicators and switches for prescribed functions in music play such as play, stop, fast forward and reverse as well as controls for prescribed elements in generation of musical tones such as tone volume, tempo and modulation. In addition, it is possible to additionally install a sub panel on a selected performance operator to provide prescribed switches and controls.

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